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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

IRAN ONE MONTH AWAY FROM THE BOMB (Rep. Franks)

Former IAEA inspector David Albright and his team of scientists determined Iran has the uranium stockpiles to enrich to weapons grade status within a month.

Albright's group, the Institute for Science and International Security, along with the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia, have spent several years quantifying Iran's ability to adapt its enrichment program to produce weapons grade uranium.

Their most recent report, released last week, states Iran could produce enough enriched uranium within one month to reach weapons grade status.

"Iran maintains a number of options should it choose to breakout of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty," the report reads. "Today, Iran could break out most quickly using a three-step process with its installed centrifuges and its Low Enriched Uranium stockpiles as of August 2013. In this case, Iran could produce one SQ (significant quantity) in as little as approximately 1.0–1.6 months, if it uses all its near 20 percent LEU hexafluoride stockpile."

ISIS reached their conclusions by evaluating Iran's options in various realistic combinations to examine the regime's

current ability to produce weapons grade uranium. They also recommended paths for eliminating the threat.

"The most practical strategy to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons is to prevent it from accumulating sufficient nuclear explosive material, particularly in secret or without adequate warning....these cases show that limiting the numbers of centrifuges and eliminating the near 20 percent LEU stock are the most important goals if breakout times are to be lengthened significantly."

Colleagues, the most important part of this study is the recognition of what we **still don't know** about Iran's real intent. Our administration is currently negotiating with a regime that has proven itself to be purposely evasive and vehemently protective of its nuclear capabilities. There has been no true transparency, and so even our best scientists who spend all their time and effort tracking this issue can still only postulate on Iran's current weapons grade status.

This is not the best position to negotiate from. We must ensure the administration does not negotiate a bad deal with Iran just to create an illusion of political good will. The stakes are simply too high.

NSWG Contact: Ari Zimmerman, Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov, 6-5536



Iran could produce enough weapons-grade uranium to build a nuclear bomb in as little as a month, according to a new estimate by one of the USA's top nuclear experts.

Iran's stockpile of medium-enriched uranium has nearly doubled in a year's time and its number of centrifuges has expanded from 12,000 in 2012 to 19,000 today.

Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office.

Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to:

Jackie Rivera, Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov
or 6-0678

(Thanks to USA Today for their graphic)